

Jones Truck Lines, Incorporated, which became the largest privately owned trucking line in the United States. In 1980, after selling the company, Harvey and Bernice Jones made it their mission to foster the growth of their community.

Over the years, the Joneses were instrumental in the development of many facilities which improved the quality of life for all Arkansans. A few examples are the Harvey and Bernice Jones Eye Institute and the Jones Center for Families. Even after Harvey's death, Bernice continued to donate millions of dollars to educational pursuits throughout Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mrs. Jones and for the timely passage of this resolution.

□ 1315

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today Congress will begin the debate on borrowing \$87 billion to continue the conflict in Iraq and build that country. Not rebuild it, build it. It is not for war damage; it is a vision of people in the Bush administration of the needs of the Iraqis, which apparently exceed the needs of Americans when it comes to clean water. They are appalled that they have open water systems; we have open water systems in the U.S. They are appalled that the port does not have state-of-the-art cranes. Well, we have got a lot of cranes missing from ports in the United States.

Then the most outrageous thing is somehow we have troops over there without ceramic body armor. Despite the fact, we appropriated \$79 billion earlier this year, \$300 million to buy \$27 million worth of vests. There was a nearly \$400 billion Pentagon budget; could not find the \$23 million there. Now, we are told they need another \$300 million to buy \$23 million worth of vests. How many times are we going to buy these things? What is going on?

When are the troops going to get the equipment they need? Billions and billions for contractors, for Pentagon procurement, but the troops do not have the basics. There is something very wrong with this picture.

MAKING \$18.6 BILLION OF SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS A LOAN

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, today we will be considering the \$87 billion supplemental that was just referred to. Sixty-six billion dollars of that will go for military aid, and I have no opposition to that at all. I am very

supportive of making sure our troops have what they need to come home safely and get their job done. But \$18.6 billion of this supplemental is going for a reconstruction plan that will be in the form of grants, of gifts that will never be repaid to the people of the United States.

I will be offering an amendment that will make this \$18.6 billion in reconstruction come in the form of loans that will be repaid. That will be ruled out of order. And when it is, I will offer a second amendment, immediately, which will cut \$18.6 billion from the supplemental package. This \$18.6 billion will be cut specifically from reconstruction.

If my second amendment passes, the administration will quickly return to us with a proposal for \$18.6 billion to be in the form of a loan. I would ask my colleagues to join me in saying if we are going to give \$18.6 billion to oil rich Iraq, let us get a repayment. Let us make sure our people do not have to bear this burden and our children repay that debt.

REJECT THE RULE ON THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this House should reject the rule on the supplemental unless it allows us to do three things. First, we should be able to vote on an interesting issue. We are told we are providing \$87 billion for our troops. Wrong. We are forcing our grandchildren to provide \$87 billion for the troops. The House should be allowed to vote on whether we add revenue raisers to this bill, so that we can pay for what we are doing.

Second, we should be allowed to vote on whether to prevent any waiver of the contracting rules, so that we can assure our constituents that all the money is not going to Halliburton in sole-source contracts.

And, finally, as the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) pointed out, we should be allowed to vote on whether this money is going as loans or gifts—the money, that \$18.6 billion that is going not to rebuild, but actually to build Iraq. Why is it that we are told that Iraq cannot borrow the money? Because they already have \$100 billion in debt. So the question is does Saddam Hussein's debt need to be repaid by American taxpayers.

RECOGNIZING THE STUDENT PARTICIPANTS IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA'S CONGRESSIONAL CLASSROOM PROGRAM

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, just a few weeks ago, 21 exceptional students

from southwest Florida experienced an adventure of a lifetime. As participants in the 13th Congressional Classroom Program, these competitively and independently selected young men and women spent a full week in Washington engaging in unique up-close studies of our Federal Government.

They learned from a bipartisan array of some of the most eminent and experienced leaders in Washington, including the gentleman from Illinois, (Mr. HASTERT), Deputy Secretary Richard Armitage, and CSPAN founder, Brian Lamb. Later they applied their newfound knowledge in a mock congressional session.

Mr. Speaker, the enthusiasm and zest for the values of this good citizenship that these students displayed was truly remarkable. I thank them for their dedication and inspiration while looking forward to the outstanding contributions that they will make to our society in the future.

TURKISH PARLIAMENT VOTE TO SEND TROOPS TO IRAQ

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises to commend the Turkish Grand National Assembly for its decision to approve the deployment of Turkish troops to Iraq to help restore security and stability there.

Last week, the Turkish parliament voted by a nearly 3 to 1 ratio to authorize the government to send troops to Iraq. This was an important and politically courageous step by our fellow parliamentarians in Ankara, one that could help stabilize Iraq, while at the same time helping to repair Turkish-American relations, a strong and positive signal that the Turkish parliament values the Turkish-American alliance and that the vote last winter was an unintended anomaly in our relationship.

This Member is optimistic that this vote marks a return to a normal pattern of cooperation that has marked Turkish-American relations. At the same time, we should recognize it was a courageous vote because many Turkish voters harbor an understandable concern about sending their soldiers on an operation abroad, especially to their neighbor. Yet our Turkish colleagues recognized that international security depends on the stabilization of Iraq, and they have agreed that Turkey should play a role in helping to rebuild its neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, despite the concerns of some Iraqis, the Turkish parliament's decision yesterday is a positive step and I commend them for it.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to the order of

the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have never been more proud to be a Member of the House of Representatives than during a recent trip, when I had the privilege of chairing a delegation of 17 Members who traveled to Iraq, the largest delegation to travel there to this point. And, indeed, it was a delegation made up of liberals, of conservatives, of Democrats, Republicans, of people who voted against the war in the first place, of individuals who supported, very strongly, the President's position in the region. The map is different than the territory, the saying goes.

And one really has to visit this country and see firsthand what has taken place there to get an understanding as to why America has such a vital and important role in the region.

Indeed, it is my view that Iraq can become a model of developing countries within the region, where there is new opportunity for freedom, for enterprise, for democracy, for, in this case, the first time in their history.

Indeed, during our travels, we had a chance to see absolutely the worst of the most significant totalitarian regime to operate in this shrinking world in modern times. Absolutely, this regime carried forward in a fashion that treated its people worse than or just at least as bad as the experience in Nazi Germany, as well as during the reign of Stalin.

To visit the killing fields where you see mounds of dirt, clothing poking out, where relatives had come to try to dig out the bodies of their loved ones who had been murdered at such locations, several such locations, perhaps in the hundreds in Iraq where between half a million and 1.5 million Iraqis were murdered by Saddam Hussein and his henchmen, to have the experience to see firsthand what has happened over these past 35 years to their infrastructure, utility plants. We visited one location where there were four stacks, two of them operating, but inside you could see the deterioration. I mean, literally, grime everywhere, steam flowing that should not have been flowing, basic infrastructure that had been ignored.

Iraq is fundamentally a very wealthy country, a country that has agricultural potential that would cause it to rival any country in their region. A fabulous people of great intellect and educational background, an oil reserve that has huge potential, that too, for one reason or another, to my astonishment, Saddam Hussein allowed to deteriorate. So at this point, this country with potential is burdened by a huge debt, made largely by our friends like Germany and France, who we hope, sometime in the near term, will consider forgiving much of that debt so that Iraq has a chance to get back on track.

Indeed, it is critical for us to recognize that the supplemental that is before us later today involves some \$65 billion to support our troops in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and elsewhere.

The balance of the \$87 billion package, some \$18.5 billion, is to give direct assistance for the reconstruction of this Iraq. It is the chance to provide a democratic opportunity as well as economic opportunity for these people who have been under such burden for so long.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to commend the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the other Members who joined us on this trip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA), the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), who are also the subcommittee chairs on the House Committee on Appropriations. We had an outstanding group.

It was a tough trip. We flew into Amman, Jordan, and the next morning went in on a C-130, an old C-130, I think it was a 1962 vintage, and landed in a kind of military landing at Baghdad International Airport.

We had a chance then to be briefed by Mr. Bremer's people. Mr. Bremer had actually briefed us here in the country. General Sanchez gave us a good run-down on what was going on. As the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) mentioned, we went south to look at an area where somewhere between 300,000 and 1 million Iraqis had been murdered. And it was a very sobering experience. And we actually talked to people who had witnessed with their own eyes the killing of these people.

The next day we went north to Mosul, met with General Petraeus, had a chance to see his good work with the 101st Airborne. And we also visited a hospital that day and a power plant, which the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) had just mentioned. And in all these instances, we were stunned to see how run down the facilities were in the country. Saddam Hussein had spent his money on palaces and on the military and had let his country deteriorate.

We had a chance to talk to a number of Iraqis, and, also, we had to recognize that there was a major security problem and one that we have to continue to deal with. There has been a lot of debate here in the Congress in both bodies about loans versus grants, but the consensus of our group, the 17 Members that made this trip, was that we came away feeling that if we were going to set an example for the rest of the world, we have to step up here because the security of our troops are directly related to the ability to get this moving, to get the electric energy producing at a higher rate, to restore the oil producing facilities. All of this depends on an investment by the United States.

And Iraq already has \$100 billion of debt to other countries. And it was run

up by Saddam Hussein. And reparations are being demanded by other countries including Bahrain and Kuwait.

In the Committee on Appropriations, we had an overwhelming majority in favor of not only funding the military operations both in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also to do the economic work that is so essential to build the trust with the Iraqi people. And it is interesting when you talk to and read some of the articles, the reason that these people are cooperating with the United States is they see the fact that we are there trying to help their country.

Up in the north, for example, Saddam Hussein's two sons were captured by a tip from a person who had been working and cooperating with the 101st Airborne with General Petraeus' people.

□ 1330

And I believe that if we can continue to build this relationship and work with these people, we can get this security situation under control. Clearly, that is not the case as we speak here today. The security situation is still very dangerous inside the country.

We had a chance to be briefed on the improvised explosive devices, the other tactics being used by the people who are part of the former Baath Party, former members of Saddam's regime. There may be, who knows, 5,000, 10,000 of these people still opposed to the United States and to our coalition; and we need to have a good effort there with our intelligence community and with our Special Forces to go after those people inside the country.

Again, it is the cooperation of the Iraqi people in giving us tips, letting us know who the bad guys are, letting us know where the safe houses are where these people are being protected by others. And I believe if we are going to be successful and we get our children home, if we are going to get them home in the near future, we have to build this relationship, and we have to help them develop their country, develop their democracy. And then they in turn can help us resolve the security issues.

We are training police as we speak. We are training people to be able to go back into their own militia so they can defend and protect their own country. So I think that we are making a significant amount of progress.

Ambassador Bremer is doing a good job, but he needs the resources. And also if we are going to ask the rest of the world to make grants, the Japanese, the Germans, the Brits, how can we do that if we are going to say we are going to loan them the money? Frankly, there is no one to loan the money to at this point. And I would doubt that they could repay the money under any circumstance. So it would be a grant, but we would be making a very non-direct and dishonest statement to the American people.

Again, I said I wanted to commend the chairman and all the Members who went. We had a chance to see what is

happening there. I recommend to the Members of the House to go and see for themselves. We are making progress. Security is still an issue; but things are getting better, and they are certainly moving in the right direction. And we need the support of the funding for the troops and to reconstruct Iraq.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BONILLA).

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to empathize that this trip by the congressional delegation was historic. It was a bipartisan trip; and I congratulate my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), for putting this incredible group together. It was a large group and it reached across the political spectrum.

All of these Members were taking this situation in Iraq very seriously and they were seeking the truth about Iraq. We were all choosing not to just get our information from news media reports that appear each night on the networks or from some of the major newspapers that only take snippets of what is actually happening in Iraq.

The truth we discovered was that the 31-member coalition has a solid grip, a real plan on improving and stabilizing a free Iraq by helping rebuild the infrastructure, establishing border security, and also trying to help build a new military for Iraq that would be on our side and would fight side by side with us, Iraqis working with us to create a country that is no longer an outlaw nation and no longer led by a rogue dictator in Iraq.

This is important to the safety of our people. And I think the strongest message we have for anyone out there who is mulling this issue over in their mind is this is about creating a safer world, about a safer country, about fighting the war on terrorism in Iraq and winning, because ultimately it will eliminate this haven and this opportunity for terrorists to thrive in that part of the world.

I was so impressed that the delegation came back, again, in a bipartisan way and reached the same conclusion. The conclusion says we must win this war on terrorism in Iraq and we must stand with our State Department, with our military, with Mr. Bremer, the administrator who is doing an incredible job in Iraq. We must win this effort. And, again, this is a bipartisan effort that we feel very strongly about, and we will be debating this in the next day as we approve the funds that are necessary to complete this mission.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from San Diego, California (Mrs. DAVIS of California).

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and I wanted to thank him particularly for his leadership on this trip.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant support of the supplemental appropri-

tions. Had I not been to Iraq and seen for myself the extent of their needs, I may not have supported it. But I cannot begin to describe the images there of Third World conditions in hospitals, the decay of infrastructure, the lack of drinkable water, the pervasive sense of insecurity and more.

Mr. Speaker, I opposed our unilateral invasion, but now I see that as liberators and occupiers we face an overwhelming challenge to craft the environment that will allow the Iraqis to create a viable future by drawing both on their innate and natural resources.

As I spoke to several of our commanders in the field, it became clear that the needs of the military for better force protection and the need to fund major infrastructure projects are linked. And, in fact, security and reconstruction are inseparable. To be sure, as conditions for Iraqis improve, it will impede the efforts by militant forces to recruit young men and destabilize the country. And also better living conditions will increase trust and motivate more Iraqis to provide friendship to security forces. However, we cannot continue to go it alone.

A recent RAND report states what we all know: Building a democracy, a strong economy and long-term legitimacy depends on striking the balance between international burden-sharing and unity of command. The U.S. cannot generate the required resources and endurance relying principally on the limited coalition that fought the war.

The U.S. portion of the cost should be a sacrifice shared equally among all Americans, including the wealthiest. Now it is our military and their families who bear the burden and face the ultimate sacrifice. That is why I will support an amendment to help fund this effort by freezing the tax brackets for upper incomes.

Further, had the Committee on Appropriations not adopted the accountability measures offered by the minority whip, I might have opposed the legislation. The President would do well to allay the concerns of a skeptical public and Congress by endorsing and accepting these accountability standards.

In a town hall meeting I sponsored in San Diego this past weekend, I heard voices, voices of outrage that echo those of many of my constituents who have contacted me. And what I learned mirrors my own reaction setting foot in Iraq: we have not well prepared our constituents and all Americans for the aftermath. That is why this legislation is difficult to swallow. But to be sure, we should have better applied the lessons of our most recent history. Having opposed the invasion, I question where we are today and the final cost in dollars and lives, but walking away now is simply not an option.

With the approval of the \$87 billion, we may or may not succeed in our efforts. But without it, Mr. Speaker, we are guaranteed failure.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) for organizing and leading this delegation to Iraq. It was a remarkable journey and lots of observations, I think, are important that the American public hear from us.

First of all, I am here to support the emergency supplemental, \$66 billion for our troops. They need this money for equipment and to continue to do their jobs, which they have done courageously and brilliantly in war and in peace. I do not think the American public has any idea of how bright and effective and resourceful our soldiers are in war and in peace. I have never seen so many masters of public administration degrees in one place as I have in our United States Army and in our Marines. They are doing a remarkable job in very difficult conditions.

The \$20 billion for the rebuilding of Iraq and some for Afghanistan is essential. This will not only help to restore the strength and the vibrancy of that country but it will also help our troops to do their job. A New York Times reporter stated recently, "We broke it. We need to fix it."

Well, we did not break it. The United States did not break Iraq; Saddam Hussein broke Iraq. Our soldiers in their execution of this war were extremely careful. They went after Saddam's palaces, military installations, Baathist Party headquarters, the political and military infrastructure. The roads and bridges and canals of this country were relatively untouched, which is remarkable. When I tell people that back home, they say, well, why do we not hear that more often? I do not know why, but that is one of the reasons I wanted to speak today.

This should not be alone. Iraq is heavily burdened by reparations to Kuwait, which I do not believe they should pay. Kuwait is a wealthy country. The loans that were made to Iraq were made to Saddam Hussein by Western powers. I think we should work with them to forgive those. I do not think we should be a party to putting more burden on the Iraqi people.

They will have the resources within a year or two to run their own country, to manage their own affairs. But this infusion of funds will help them get their power grid up, which was destroyed by looters after the war, not during the war. Their water grid, Saddam did not build water systems in the north or the south because they were not his supporters. We need to make sure the Kurds and the Turkmen and the Shea peoples have the same quality of life that they have in central Iraq.

This country has tremendous potential. We all saw it from 150 feet off the ground in Black Hawk helicopters. We saw the potential. This is an agricultural mecca. They have the Tigris and

Euphrates rivers; the Fertile Crest that we all studied about in school is still there. They have top soil 4, 5, 6, 7 feet deep, 1,000 miles long, 100 miles across. They can feed most of the central part of Asia. But most importantly, if this country becomes democratic, and I think it can if we stay with the task and get the job done, it will be a beacon, as our leader said, to the rest of the Middle East which is sorely lacking in democracy.

It will put pressure on the Saudis, the Syrians, and the Iranis to follow suit and give their people a stake in their government.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), another member of our delegation.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, history has an uncanny way of reminding us of our own motivation. When General Marshall outlined his program to help Europe, he did not know 30 years later the United States would stand at a similar crossroads. The 400,000 Americans killed in World War II paid the ultimate price for the mistakes made after World War I. And following the second European war, the continent ran out of food and suffered from runaway inflation and turned to communism.

Learning the lessons of World War I, we came forward with the Marshall Plan, and it went beyond feeding the hungry and laid the foundation for the post-war recovery. Unlocking the potential of Europe, revitalizing the economies of 17 countries, expanding foreign trade, striking a blow against communism, these were all worthy goals but they cost an expensive \$105 billion.

We are at a similar crossroad now. We know that President Truman's decision to back the Marshall Plan helped prevent World War III. A third generation of Americans did not return to Europe, and today we face similar questions. In the House of Representatives as we debate \$19 billion for Iraq, we consider Truman's question: How much would you pay to avoid World War III? And the answer from the American people was \$105 billion.

So looking at the unfinished work of Desert Storm, how much would we pay to stop a third war in Iraq?

Well, cost is relative to income. Today's U.S. economy is larger than it was in 1947; the Marshall Plan imposed a heavy burden on our economy, 5 percent of the economy. This plan costs .02 percent of our economy. In this way, it is 200 times less expensive than the Marshall Plan.

Now, as part of this delegation, I was in Baghdad. I saw the main power plant returning to prewar capacity. I saw firsthand a budding democracy taking root on the front pages of no less than 120 newspapers. Under Saddam, half of all children did not go to school.

□ 1345

Last week, 90 percent of kids returned to class, many with the 1.5 mil-

lion book bags provided with the U.S. flag embossed on the front. They returned to class also with five million textbooks, but these textbooks were absent the pictures of Saddam and the rhetoric of hate that undermined the future of this region.

Like their predecessors in Europe, our troops should finish this mission, earning a ticket home with no future Middle Eastern war forcing a return to the killing fields of Iraq. As the elected Representatives of the American people, we need to decide how much it costs to prevent a third war in Iraq. The stakes are very high. Leaving Iraq before our work is done guarantees that another generation of Americans will have to return to fight there. I think that is a risk that I am not willing to take.

I really applaud the bipartisan leadership that we had, especially the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) standing with us, and I thank my colleague for the opportunity to talk today.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I very much appreciate my colleague's expression of concern.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield to the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I think one thing that since we have gotten back on this trip and having a chance to reflect on it, and I appreciate the gentleman's very kind remarks, and I think the analogy of the Marshall Plan is a good one to think about in the context, but it is becoming clearer, the administration, I think, is working hard at the U.N. to bring other countries in. We need some partners in this operation to pay part of the cost, to share part of the burden, because it is, in fact, a U.N. resolution that we were enforcing when the United States went into Iraq, and I believe it is now time for the United States to reach out to the rest of the world and to bring the rest of the world into this operation. We may still have to lead it militarily, but on economic development, on moving the country forward, providing assistance, I think this is the time when that needs to happen.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Reclaiming my time, I am struck as the gentleman is making remarks, he talked a lot with us about the fact that the funding flow that may come from this supplemental, including the reconstruction, are as much designed to help secure our troops as anything. Would my colleague react to that?

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I am having a hard time hearing over here.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield to the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, for example, this money is going to help support 240

health clinics around Iraq. Those health clinics will be close to where our troops are stationed. So the people of Iraq will see that we are adding to the health infrastructure of this country and know that it is because of the presence of Americans. It helps protects our troops.

Mr. DICKS. If the gentleman will further yield, General Petraeus was up there explaining, opening these schools, getting people back to work, helping to train the police, selecting the local mayor, selecting the governor of the province. All these things are being done, and what they need in order to continue to do this is resources for reconstruction, and I think one of the things that I fought hard for in the bill was to make sure that the commanders are given some flexibility to be able to do some of these things because they are like the local mayors. They are out there in those provinces working on these issues, and his point over and over again, it is directly related to the security of our troops and the coalition troops.

If we do these things and build a relationship with the Iraqis, it is going to make it easier to protect our kids. That is why I think it is so crucial that we keep this package together, and that is why I think the money for reconstruction is just as crucial for security purposes as the other funding.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we learned many a thing during our trip to Iraq, but most impressive to me is that the media has talked much about the fact that there were not people cheering in the streets when we arrived in Iraq. I can tell my colleagues that was largely true because of the fear that remained on the part of the people in Baghdad, but as we flew over hundreds of miles of Iraq, very low altitudes in helicopters, one of the great impressions was endless farmhouses, kids running out of the houses, families running out of the fields, waving at the helicopters.

I can tell my colleagues they were not waving at Congressmen. They did not know we were there. They were waving at American troops who were there providing them with an opportunity for peace and, indeed, for freedom in the years ahead.

Above and beyond that, among the horrendous actions of this terrorist, indeed Saddam Hussein, directly impacted the mortality of the children of Iraq from a time when the children of Iraq lived as long as children in the whole region. It now has one of the worst child mortality rates in the entire world.

Beyond that, one of our colleagues, one of the Democrats with us, a fellow who voted against the war in the first place, kind of crystallized it for me, he said, After all we have seen, this is going to be a very tough vote for me, and he went on to say, After seeing what we have seen, it occurs to me that sometimes we have to be just a bit ahead of where our constituents may

be. It is time for us to lead, and so I am going to vote for this package that is coming to the House.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to make one point, and it was specifically asked that I do so.

When we split, half our group went to Mosul, half went to Kirkuk. We met with the city council and the mayor of Kirkuk. The mayor spoke first, and the first thing he said in a very emotional way, he was a Kurd, he said, I want you to go back to the United States and tell the mothers and fathers of these soldiers that we are deeply grateful to them for the sacrifices their sons and daughters made to liberate us.

I wanted to make sure that I delivered that message. It was repeated by Shiias, Turkimenes and other Kurds who served on the city council. So I just wanted to make sure I made that point.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. DICKS. Again, we heard the same thing, and again I want to say my own personal thanks to all those who have served in the military operation.

I had a chance to go over right before the war with the chairman and then with the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and to go again to see the success of the military operation, but again, I want to emphasize, we have got to continue to work on this security issue, to help protect the young men and women.

Many of us have been to the various hospitals to see the wounded. It makes one's heart break that we did not have some of the equipment necessary at the right time to protect them. Now, we have put the money in the budget. We have beaten on the Defense Department to get it out there, and I think they are doing a much better job, but this was a very revealing trip, and I think we are doing the right thing, but we have got to continue to stay with it, bring in our international allies and get this job done, and if we do it right, it could be a great success.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming the balance of my time, let me say there will be much discussion today about whether we should make a loan or whether this should be a grant, that is, the \$18.5 billion piece of this.

Normally, I would have leaned in the direction of perhaps making a loan, but the difficulty with that is that there is a huge burden of almost \$200 billion on the backs of the people of Iraq, largely due to Saddam Hussein, and in the latter part of this month, there is a meeting in Spain with the donor countries, and we hope to get the likes of France and Germany and others to forgive much of that obligation so we can get this country back on track. If we are in the lending business at this moment,

that donor's conference will become a lender's conference and undermine that capability.

Further, it is very important for us to know that if we are successful in Iraq, it will set a tone for the entire Middle East, expanding the opportunity for freedom and for democratic growth within the region.

This has been a very, very important trip for the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and myself and all of those colleagues who joined us. As I said in the beginning, I have never been more proud than I was on this trip than to watch Democrats and Republicans, American Congressmen, working together on behalf of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATOURETTE). Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to myself to explain the procedure of the situation.

Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding under a very unusual circumstance to say the least. We will be having considerable discussion of a bill which is not yet before us but which will be before us tomorrow, assuming that the Committee on Rules brings out a rule that provides for its consideration tomorrow. Meanwhile, we will be having discussions about what the House anticipates will be on the floor tomorrow.

We have just had a half an hour description of a trip taken by one of the congressional delegations to Iraq, and we are now yielding for the next half an hour to other Members of the House who want to express their thoughts on the subject in general, and when we are finished with that half an hour, we will then be proceeding to additional debate, which is provided for on the House floor today through a unanimous consent agreement reached yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Indiana (Mr. VISCLOSKEY).

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I will vote for the final supplemental package. However, I do rise to express a number of concerns that I have.

This is the largest foreign aid package that any current Member of this Congress has voted for, and I do not believe that it should be left to our children and grandchildren to bear the burden of today's decision.

During the Committee on Appropriations markup of this aid package last week, I voted in favor of an amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the ranking minority member. The gentleman from Wis-

consin's (Mr. OBEY) amendment would have transferred \$4.6 billion from the reconstruction of Iraq to the equipment needs of our brave men and women who are still in harm's way. I would again support this amendment if it were allowed to be offered in the House because I strongly believe that it is our duty and our responsibility to first ensure that every American soldier and military personnel in Iraq has the equipment they need to fight and defend themselves; secondly, that our generation should pay for it, not our children.

The gentleman from Wisconsin's (Mr. OBEY) amendment would have added additional funds for repairing and replacing equipment used in operations. It would have included funds to allow the Army to increase its number of active-duty troops from the current level of 480,000 to 500,000. These additional troops, enough for one full Army division, after 1 year would help relieve pressure on an already overdeployed active-duty force, but most importantly, the entire \$87 billion package would be paid for by canceling the top tax cut rate of 1 percent. The amendment restores the top tax rate to pre-2001 levels of 39.6 percent. It would have placed us in a position of not borrowing money to fight a war today that our children would have to pay for tomorrow.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK).

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

This is a very difficult time for me as a Member of this body to come before my colleagues and ask you to seek out, to write, to call, to e-mail and to fax your United States Congressperson, your United States Senator and the President of the United States, letting us know, America, how you feel about \$87 billion being spent on the country of Iraq at this time; \$66 billion of that is for our troops; 18 plus billion of it is for the reconstruction of Iraq.

I stand before my colleagues as an appropriator, one who has sat in two hearings on the \$18 billion of your tax money. At the same time that we are building their electricity, their water, their schools, their hospitals, ours are crumbling. I believe that we should help Iraq, and I think the American people believe that, but we should not be building Iraq better than Iraq was built before the U.S. invaded. I think that is wrong, and I think the American people should speak out on that.

We are in trying times in our own country. Many schools, many hospitals are in dire need. Our judicial system is falling and failing, and yes, we are going to rebuild their judicial system. I think something's wrong with that, and we need to speak out on that, and we need to hear from you, America, on this very question this week. As this supplemental goes this week, today, tomorrow, and probably early Friday